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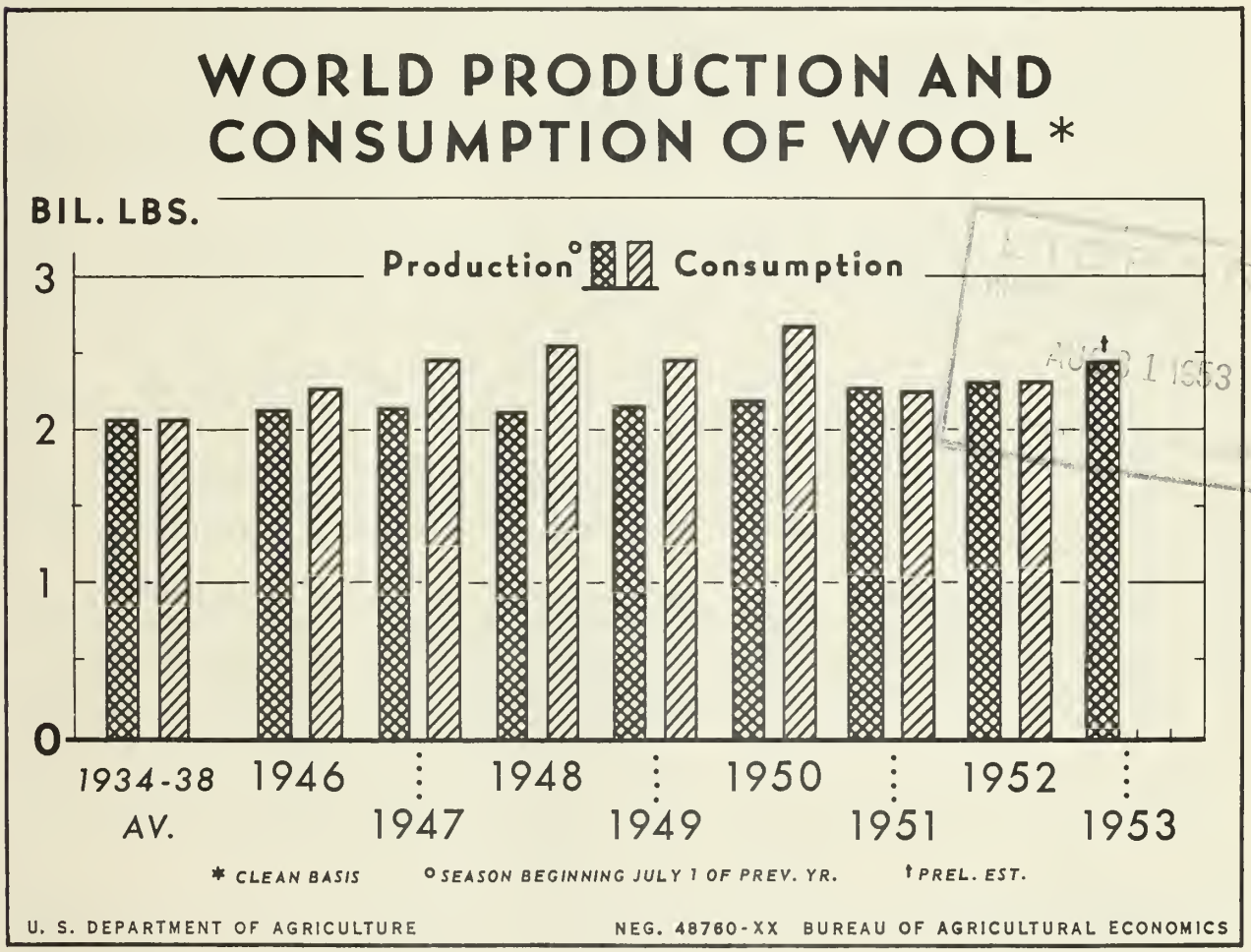
AUG. 17, A. M.

THE Wool SITUATION

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

TWS-24 BAE JULY-SEPTEMBER 1953



AUG 31 1953

World consumption of wool during 1946-50 is estimated to have exceeded production during that period by about 15 percent. This was made possible by the large wartime accumulation which rssulted from the reduced consumption in continental Europe and Japan.

Except for a slight setback in 1949, world consumption of wool trended upward from 1946 through 1950, when a record, about one-fifth in excess of production, was reached. However, consumption declined slightly in 1951 and was below production during the 1950-51 season but increased somewhat to about equal production in 1951-52.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY
Part I - Prices

Item	Unit	1952 Apr.	1952 May	1952 June	1952 July	1953 Apr.	1953 May	1953 June	1953 July	Last data available as percent of a year earlier
Average price received by farmers, grease basis	Cents per pound	51.3	53.0	53.1	53.2	53.4	55.1	55.6	53.9	101
Parity price	Cents per pound	60.4	60.4	59.8	59.8	58.6	58.6	57.8	58.4	98
Farm as percent of parity	Percent	85	88	89	89	91	94	96	92	
Boston market prices, clean basis 1/	Cents per pound									
Domestic wool										
Graded territory										
Fine good French combing and staple	do.	158.0	159.4	160.0	162.7	173.7	175.2	174.8	172.5	106
1/2 blood good French combing and staple	do.	137.0	138.8	140.0	146.0	152.5	152.5	151.5	149.5	102
3/8 blood good French combing and staple	do.	120.0	120.0	120.0	132.0	132.5	131.5	132.0	132.2	100
1/4 blood good French combing and staple	do.	111.0	113.8	117.5	125.5	122.5	122.5	122.5	122.5	98
Low 1/4 blood	do.	101.0	97.5	97.5	101.9	102.5	102.5	102.5	102.5	101
Common and braid	do.	97.0	92.5	92.5	96.5	97.5	97.5	97.5	97.5	101
Graded fleece										
Delaine	do.	156.0	157.5	160.0	163.0	175.3	178.4	178.0	177.9	109
1/2 blood good French combing and staple	do.	131.5	135.0	136.5	143.6	143.8	145.8	143.5	144.5	101
3/8 blood good French combing and staple	do.	112.6	110.5	110.5	112.2	120.1	119.4	119.9	118.9	106
1/4 blood good French combing and staple	do.	105.8	106.0	104.4	105.4	111.7	112.1	112.8	111.0	105
Low 1/4 blood	do.	97.0	95.0	95.0	97.0	105.8	106.0	106.0	106.0	109
Common and braid	do.	91.0	87.5	87.5	91.5	95.0	95.0	95.0	95.0	104
Original bag Texas										
Fine 12 months good French combing and staple	do.	158.0	159.4	161.2	168.1	177.5	183.1	185.0	182.5	109
Fine 8 months (1" and over)	do.	141.5	144.6	147.5	159.0	162.5	167.5	168.8	167.5	105
Fine fall (3/4" and over)	do.	138.5	137.5	137.5	144.5	143.0	143.0	150.1	152.5	106
Imported wool, excluding duty										
Australian										
64's, 70's warp and 1/2 warp	do.	142.5	147.5	147.5	147.5	182.5	182.5	182.5	182.5	124
64's, 70's good topmaking	do.	137.5	142.5	142.5	142.5	177.5	177.5	177.5	177.8	125
64's combing	do.	132.5	137.5	135.0	135.0	172.5	172.5	172.5	172.5	128
58's, 60's combing	do.	127.5	132.5	127.5	127.5	147.5	147.5	147.5	147.5	116
Montevideo super										
0's (58's, 60's)	do.	122.1	121.5	121.5	121.5	127.0	127.0	127.0	125.5	103
1's (56's)	do.	108.3	107.5	107.5	107.2	103.0	103.0	104.2	112.5	105
2's (50's)	do.	95.9	95.5	95.5	94.3	96.5	96.5	96.5	104.8	111
3's (46's, 48's)	do.	78.7	81.5	81.5	82.4	84.5	84.5	84.5	94.5	115
4's (44's)	do.	74.5	74.5	74.5	73.9	86.0	86.0	86.0	86.2	117
5's (40's)	do.	72.5	72.5	72.5	73.1	86.0	86.0	86.0	86.2	118
Other textile fibers										
Cotton, middling 15/16" 2/	do.	40.7	38.6	40.4	39.4	33.0	33.4	33.2	33.4	85
Man-made synthetic staple fiber										
Viscose, 1-1/2 denier 3/	do.	40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0	36.8	34.0	34.0	34.0	85
Acetate, 5 denier 3/	do.	42.0	42.0	42.0	42.0	38.7	39.0	39.0	39.0	93
Nylon, 3 denier 4/	do.	---	---	---	---	---	170.0	170.0	5/	
Dacron, 3, 4.5, and 6 denier 4/	do.	---	---	---	---	---	180.0	180.0	5/	
Orlon, 3, 4.5, and 6 denier 4/	do.	190.0	190.0	190.0	190.0	190.0	190.0	190.0	5/	100
Acrilan, 3 and 5 denier 4/	do.	---	---	---	---	185.0	185.0	185.0	5/	
Dynel, 2, 3, 6, 12, and 24 denier 4/	do.	128.0	128.0	128.0	128.0	128.0	128.0	128.0	5/	100
Vicara, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 7 denier 4/	do.	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	5/	100

1/ From PMA Boston market reports.
2/ Average of 10 markets.
3/ From Textile Organon.
4/ From Modern Textile Magazine.
5/ Not available.

THE WOOL SITUATION

Approved by Outlook and Situation Board, August 11, 1953

SUMMARY

A strengthening of world demand, the movement of a substantial part of the domestic clip into the loan program, and additions to the stockpile in the United Kingdom have resulted in a gradual rise in wool prices in world markets since early 1952. During the final month of sales in Australia, prices were down slightly from the previous month but still ranged between 35 and 40 percent above the lows of March 1952.

Boston quotations for domestic wools have been relatively stable in recent months and well above a year earlier. Quotations for most domestic fine and half-blood wools have been above loan rates while quotations for three-eighths blood and coarser wools have been below.

Prices received by domestic growers for shorn wool this season have been averaging slightly above the national average loan rate of 53.1 cents under the 1953 program. The average for the season probably will be slightly above that of last season and above the national average loan rate.

The upward trend in world consumption which began in late 1951 continued through the first quarter of this year. Consumption during that quarter was about one-third above a year earlier and only about 5 percent below the record of the first quarter of 1950. Consumption in both January-March and the final quarter of 1952, is estimated to have been at an annual rate above world production during the 1952-53 season.

Consumption of wool in the United States during the early months of this year also was well above a year earlier. Mill use of apparel wool through May was up almost one-fifth and of carpet wool over one-fourth from last year. The weekly rate of consumption of apparel wool during May was the highest for any month since early 1951.

United States imports of apparel wool for consumption dropped sharply below a year earlier in April and May after having been slightly above in the first quarter. The January-May total was about one-eighth below the same period last year. The decline during April and May probably reflected larger movement of domestic wools into manufacturing channels than last season. Imports of carpet wool during the first 5 months of 1952 were up about one-half over last year.

Exports of wool from the Southern Hemisphere during the 1952-53 season have been well above both 1951-52 and 1950-51. Indications are that the carryover in these countries at the end of the season will be considerably lower than a year earlier, even though production during 1952-53 was substantially larger than in 1951-52.

Domestic shorn wool production this year has been estimated at 229.3 million pounds, grease basis. Somewhat more pulled wool is expected this year than last, however, reflecting the increased slaughter. Total production probably will not differ greatly from the 266 million pounds produced last year.

Survey of Recent Developments

Wool Prices in Foreign Markets

Toward the close of the season in Australia last June, wool prices declined somewhat after having advanced almost continuously from April 1952 until early June 1953. The decline was reflected in other markets.

At the close of the 1952-53 season in Australia, prices of most fine wools were almost 20 percent above the opening last September and between 35 and 40 percent above the lows of March 1952. However, they were between 45 and 50 percent below the record levels reached following the outbreak in Korea. Compared with pre-Korean levels, prices ranged up to almost 10 percent higher.

At the July series of London auctions, prices declined somewhat from May to levels more in line with prices at the closing sales in Australia (table 1).

Boston Quotations Fairly Stable

Boston quotations for both domestic and imported wools have been relatively stable during recent months.

As of early August, quotations for Australian fine wools were up about 5 cents, clean basis, from mid-March. Quotations for Montevideo 3's and finer super wools were up from 5 to 10 cents and for 4's and 5's about 1 cent over 5 months earlier.

Early in August, quotations for original bag Texas fine wools ranged from 5 to 15 cents above 5 months earlier, quotations for graded fine and half-blood fleece wools were up somewhat less; quotations for most graded territory wools were unchanged; and quotations for original bag territory fine and half-blood wools were down slightly.

In general, quotations for domestic fine and half-blood wools were above the corresponding loan rates, while quotations for three-eighths blood and coarser wools were below their loan rates (table 3).

Average of Grower Prices Up from a Year Earlier

Prices received by domestic growers for shorn wool during the early months of the current season have averaged slightly above a year earlier. The higher average prices reflect the generally higher level of wool prices in world markets.

Prices received at mid-June averaged 55.6 cents per pound, grease basis, compared with 53.1 cents a year earlier. The mid-June average was equivalent to 96 percent of the parity price for wool for that month. A year earlier the average was equivalent to 89 percent of parity.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY
Part II - Supplies and Mill Activity

Item	Unit	1952 Feb.	1952 Mar.	1952 Apr.	1952 May	1953 Feb.	1953 Mar.	1953 Apr.	1953 May 1/	Last data available as percent of a year earlier
Reported stocks, scoured basis 2/	Million pounds									
Apparel wool			130.8				163.1			125
Domestic	do.		55.7				98.8			177
Foreign	do.		75.1				64.3			86
Carpet wool	do.		34.2				42.0			123
Imports for consumption, clean content										
Dutiable 3/	do.	19.9	17.4	24.0	22.1	17.8	16.9	18.9	14.3	65
Finer than 56's	do.	14.3	12.7	16.1	14.1	12.9	11.2	11.8	8.3	59
44's - 56's	do.	3.5	2.7	4.8	4.3	2.4	2.6	2.8	3.0	70
40's - 44's	do.	0.6	1.0	1.3	1.7	0.6	0.4	1.1	0.7	41
Not finer than 40's	do.	1.3	0.7	1.5	1.6	1.6	2.4	2.9	2.0	125
Donskoi, Smyrna, etc.	do.	.2	.2	0.1	0.4	.3	.3	0.3	0.3	75
Duty-free	do.	7.1	10.8	9.8	8.0	10.0	14.2	10.3	10.1	126
Donskoi, Smyrna, etc.	do.	4.2	7.5	6.5	5.2	5.5	8.3	4.8	5.5	106
Not finer than 40's	do.	2.9	3.3	3.3	2.8	4.5	5.9	5.5	4.6	164
Accumulated since January 1										
Dutiable 3/	do.	39.9	57.3	81.3	103.4	38.7	55.6	74.4	88.8	86
Finer than 56's	do.	28.2	40.9	57.0	71.2	27.3	38.6	50.4	58.7	82
44's - 56's	do.	6.7	9.4	14.2	18.5	5.4	8.0	10.8	13.9	75
40's - 44's	do.	1.7	2.7	4.0	5.7	1.2	1.6	2.7	3.4	60
Not finer than 40's	do.	3.0	3.7	5.2	6.8	4.3	6.7	9.5	11.5	169
Donskoi, Smyrna, etc.	do.	0.3	0.5	0.6	1.0	0.5	0.7	1.0	1.3	130
Duty-free	do.	14.8	25.5	35.3	43.2	29.6	43.8	54.1	64.2	149
Donskoi, Smyrna, etc.	do.	8.6	16.0	22.5	27.7	14.4	22.7	27.5	33.0	119
Not finer than 40's	do.	6.2	9.5	12.8	15.5	15.2	21.1	26.6	31.2	201
Imports for consumption, actual weight										
Dutiable	do.	30.4	26.9	36.9	33.6	29.3	27.9	30.0	22.3	66
Duty-free	do.	9.6	15.3	13.4	10.6	14.7	21.3	15.4	15.1	142
Mill consumption, scoured basis 4/										
Per week, during month 5/										
Apparel (domestic and duty-paid foreign)	1,000 pounds	6,218	5,971	5,876	6,277	7,391	7,500	7,298	7,885	126
60's and finer	do.	3,354	3,242	3,049	3,262	3,702	3,784	3,548	3,855	118
50's up to 60's	do.	2,103	2,032	2,028	2,207	2,710	2,628	2,757	2,944	133
48's and coarser	do.	761	697	799	808	979	1,088	993	1,086	134
Carpet (duty-free foreign)	do.	2,513	2,385	2,265	2,033	3,164	3,203	2,864	2,434	120
Accumulated since January 1										
Apparel (domestic and duty-paid foreign)	Million pounds	54.4	78.3	107.7	132.8	63.9	93.9	130.4	162.0	122
60's and finer	do.	29.6	42.6	57.9	70.9	32.9	48.1	65.8	81.2	115
50's up to 60's	do.	18.7	26.8	36.9	45.8	22.9	33.4	47.2	59.0	129
48's and coarser	do.	6.1	8.9	12.9	16.1	8.1	12.4	17.4	21.8	135
Carpet (duty-free foreign)	do.	21.4	30.9	42.2	50.4	26.3	39.2	53.5	63.2	125
Wool fabric production 6/	Million linear yards									
Accumulated since January 1										
Apparel fabrics			74.7				72.6			97
Government orders	do.		23.1				8.2			35
Men's and boys' wear	do.		24.1				33.0			137
Women's and children's wear	do.		27.5				31.4			114
Non-apparel fabrics	do.		11.5				12.9			112
Blanketing	do.		7.0				7.1			101
Other non-apparel fabrics	do.		4.5				5.8			129
Total woven fabrics	do.		86.2				85.5			99

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Includes stocks held on consignment, stocks in process of manufacture up to the carding operation, stocks held in bond, and wool purchased by the Commodity Credit Corporation through the loan program; does not include wool held by the CCC for the Department of Defense and wool held for the account of domestic growers except that held on consignment for growers. 3/ Includes carbonized wool which is not reported by grade. 4/ Excludes wool consumed on the cotton and other spinning systems and in the manufacture of felts, hat bodies, and other miscellaneous products. 5/ Monthly periods are 4 or 5 calendar weeks generally totaling 13 weeks each quarter. 6/ Principally wool, reprocessed wool, or reused wool by weight.

Compiled from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 1.- Prices of good fleece wools at the London auctions, in cents and pence per pound, clean basis (Bradford yield), by months, 1950-53

Week ended 1/	Good medium fleeces		Fine Crossbred fleeces		Crossbred fleeces	
	64's-70's	64's-70's	56's	56's	46's	46's
	Cents	Pence	Cents	Pence	Cents	Pence
1950						
January 27	173.9	149.0	114.4	98.0	70.0	60.0
February 10	158.7	136.0	95.7	82.0	60.7	52.0
March 16	158.7	136.0	93.4	80.0	63.0	54.0
March 31	170.4	146.0	102.7	88.0	70.0	60.0
May 5	177.4	152.0	110.9	95.0	75.9	65.0
May 19	184.4	158.0	114.4	98.0	79.4	68.0
July 6	184.4	158.0	114.4	98.0	80.5	69.0
July 21	198.4	170.0	123.7	106.0	89.9	77.0
September 22	285.9	245.0	198.4	170.0	166.9	143.0
October 6	262.6	225.0	186.7	160.0	152.9	131.0
November 24	282.4	242.0	200.7	172.0	179.7	154.0
December 8	293.9	252.0	227.4	195.0	191.3	164.0
1951						
February 2	355.9	305.0	256.7	220.0	221.7	190.0
February 16	364.1	312.0	280.1	240.0	228.7	196.0
April 6	350.1	300.0	256.7	220.0	210.1	180.0
April 20	2/	2/	245.1	210.0	210.1	180.0
June 5	309.2	265.0	198.4	170.0	145.9	125.0
July 13	221.7	190.0	2/	2/	116.7	100.0
July 20	221.7	190.0	147.0	126.0	119.0	102.0
September 21	145.8	125.0	98.0	84.0	78.1	67.0
October 4	204.1	175.0	139.9	120.0	101.5	87.0
December 5	175.0	150.0	112.0	96.0	85.2	73.0
December 14	178.4	153.0	113.1	97.0	88.6	76.0
1952						
January 25	162.2	140.0	95.0	82.0	81.1	70.0
February 8	165.7	143.0	98.5	85.0	81.1	70.0
March 21	147.3	126.0	79.5	68.0	57.3	49.0
April 3	147.5	126.0	72.6	62.0	51.5	44.0
May 16	163.5	140.0	91.1	78.0	64.2	55.0
May 23	166.3	143.0	91.9	79.0	64.0	55.0
July 18	181.1	156.0	104.5	90.0	78.9	68.0
July 25	174.2	150.0	96.4	83.0	76.6	66.0
September 19	164.6	142.0	91.6	79.0	74.2	64.0
September 26	171.7	148.0	99.8	86.0	76.6	66.0
November 28	175.1	150.0	108.6	93.0	84.0	72.0
December 12	177.6	152.0	107.5	92.0	81.8	70.0
1953						
January 16	185.2	158.0	107.8	92.0	84.4	72.0
January 23	183.0	156.0	93.9	80.0	75.1	64.0
February 20	190.3	162.0	101.0	86.0	78.7	67.0
March 20	193.5	165.0	107.9	92.0	84.4	72.0
March 27	197.1	168.0	107.9	92.0	89.1	76.0
May 8	202.7	173.0	110.2	94.0	89.1	76.0
May 15	211.1	180.0	110.2	94.0	89.1	76.0
July 10	201.8	172.0	103.2	88.0	83.3	71.0
July 24	197.1	168.0	106.8	91.0	85.7	73.0

1/ Opening and closing weeks for each series.
2/ No quotations.

Compiled from Kreglinger and Fernau market reports. Prices converted from pence to cents at current rates of exchange.

The lower average as of mid-July, 53.9 cents, probably reflected the generally lower level of wool prices in world markets. The mid-month average for July was equivalent to 92 percent of parity and compared with 53.2 cents a year earlier.

About 101 Million Pounds of Wool Acquired by CCC under 1952 Program

The Commodity Credit Corporation acquired approximately 101 million pounds of wool, actual weight, under the 1952 price support program. Of the total, about 95 million pounds were shorn wool and the remainder pulled wool.

It has been announced that effective May 1, 1953, and until further notice, sales of wool acquired under the 1952 program may be made at not less than 115 percent of the appraisal value at Boston, adjusted for freight on wool stored outside Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut.

About 22 Million Pounds of 1953 Wool Under Loan as of July 31

The PMA office in Boston has estimated that about 22.4 million pounds of 1953 shorn wool were under loan as of July 31. On that date, advance or recourse loans were outstanding on 18.7 million pounds and non-recourse loans on 3.7 million pounds.

As for the 1952 program, the 1953 price support program for shorn wool operates through loans and for pulled wool through pruchases.

United States Tariff Commission Announces Wool Investigation Under Section 22 of Agricultural Adjustment Act

The United States Tariff Commission recently issued a public notice which read, in part, as follows: "By direction of the President, dated July 9, 1953, the United States Tariff Commission, on the 10th day of July 1953, instituted, and hereby gives notice of an investigation, under Section 22 of the Agricultural Adjustment Act, as amended, and Executive Order No. 7233 of November 23, 1935, for the purpose of determining whether wool of the sheep subject to duty under paragraphs 1101 (a) and 1102 of the Tariff Act of 1930, carbonized wool of the sheep subject to duty under paragraph 1106 of the said act, or sheep's-wool tops subject to duty under the said paragraph 1106 are being or are practically certain to be imported into the United States under such conditions and in such quantities as to render or tend to render ineffective or materially interfere with the price-support program for wool undertaken by the United States Department of Agriculture or to reduce substantially the amount of products processed in the United States from domestic wool."

All parties interested will be given an opportunity to be present, to produce evidence, and to be heard at a public hearing to be held beginning August 31, 1953.

Table 2.- Prices of domestic shorn wool at Boston, clean basis, for week ended August 7, 1953 with comparisons

Classification	1950 week ended June 23	1951 week ended Mar. 16	1952 week ended Apr. 18	1953 week ended Aug. 7	Percent change week ended August 7, 1953, from week ended June 23, 1950	March 16, 1951	April 18, 1953
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
Graded shorn							
Territory and Texas							
Fine, good French combing and staple	176.0	380.0	157.5	172.5	- 2.0	- 54.6	9.5
½ blood, good French combing and staple	158.5	345.0	135.0	152.5	- 3.8	- 55.8	+ 13.0
3/8 blood, good French combing and staple	139.5	315.0	120.0	132.5	- 5.0	- 57.9	+ 10.4
¼ blood, good French combing and staple	122.5	300.0	110.0	122.5	0	- 59.2	+ 11.4
Low ¼ blood	97.5	260.0	97.5	102.5	+ 5.1	- 60.6	+ 5.1
Common and braid	92.5	255.0	92.5	97.5	+ 5.4	- 61.8	+ 5.4
Fleece							
Fine, Delaine	182.5	380.0	160.0	177.5	- 2.7	- 53.3	+ 11.1
½ blood, good French combing and staple	158.5	330.0	130.0	149.0	- 6.0	- 54.8	+ 14.6
3/8 blood, good French combing and staple	127.5	290.0	110.0	116.5	- 8.6	- 59.8	+ 5.9
¼ blood, good French combing and staple	122.5	275.0	105.0	112.0	- 8.6	- 59.3	+ 6.7
Low ¼ blood	102.5	245.0	95.0	106.0	+ 3.4	- 56.7	+ 11.6
Common and braid	97.5	240.0	87.5	95.0	- 2.6	- 60.4	+ 8.6
Original bag shorn							
Fine Texas							
Good French combing and staple	174.5	380.0	157.5	180.0	+ 3.2	- 52.6	+ 14.3
Eight months (1 inch and over)	157.5	320.0	140.0	167.5	+ 6.3	- 47.7	+ 19.6
Fall (3/4 inch and over)	127.5	275.0	137.5	152.5	+19.6	- 44.6	+ 10.9

Compiled from market reports of the Production and Marketing Administration.

Table 3.- Market quotations and 1953 program loan rates per pound for domestic shorn wools, clean basis, Boston

Classification	1953 program loan rates	Boston quotations week ended August 7, 1953
	Dollars	Dollars
Graded shorn		
Territory and Texas		
Fine, good French combing and staple	1.63	1.70-1.75
Fine, average and good French combing	1.57	1.65-1.70
Fine, short French combing and clothing	1.42	1.50-1.55
1/2 blood, good French combing and staple	1.49	1.50-1.55
1/2 blood, average and good French combing	1.40	1.45-1.50
3/8 blood, good French combing and staple	1.29	1.30-1.35
1/4 blood, good French combing and staple	1.20	1.20-1.25
Low 1/4 blood	1.06	1.00-1.05
Common and braid	1.02	0.95-1.00
Fleece		
Fine, Delaine	1.64	1.75-1.80
Fine, short French combing and clothing	1.34	1.45-1.50
1/2 blood, good French combing and staple	1.44	1.48-1.50
3/8 blood, good French combing and staple	1.22	1.14-1.19
1/4 blood, good French combing and staple	1.13	1.10-1.14
Low 1/4 blood	1.01	1.04-1.08
Common and braid	0.97	0.92-0.98
Original bag shorn		
Fine Texas		
Good French combing and staple	1.63	1.75-1.85
Eight months (1 inch and over)	1.44	1.65-1.70
Fall (3/4 inch and over)	1.32	1.50-1.55

Compiled from reports of the Production and Marketing Administration.

World Wool Production Increases to Record Level

World production of wool (apparel and carpet) during the 1953-54 season is forecast at 4,330 million pounds, grease basis, by the Foreign Agricultural Service (table 4). The forecast for 1953-54 is about 40 million pounds over the revised estimate of production for 1952-53. The clean yield for 1953-54 is expected to be about 2,500 million pounds.

New records would be set in Australia, New Zealand, and Uruguay, if the production forecasts are realized.

Production during 1952-53, now estimated at a new record of 4,290 million pounds, was 270 million pounds over output in 1951-52 and 90 million pounds in excess of the previous record of 1942.

Table 4.- Wool, grease basis: Production in specified countries, 1948-53

Continent and Country	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952 1/	1953 1/
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.
North America						
Canada	11.9	9.8	9.5	6.9	7.7	8.0
United States	278.4	248.5	247.8	251.4	266.0	260.0
Estimated total 2/	302.3	270.5	271.2	272.5	287.5	281.4
Europe						
United Kingdom	81.0	88.0	89.0	92.7	95.1	97.0
Eire	12.2	12.0	13.7	14.0	14.8	14.8
France	29.3	33.9	35.0	40.0	41.9	41.9
Spain	88.0	82.0	90.0	90.0	93.0	94.0
Portugal	18.0	17.0	21.2	22.0	22.0	22.5
Italy	28.9	35.3	35.0	35.5	35.0	34.0
Germany (Western)	21.0	19.2	15.3	14.4	13.7	13.0
Estimated total 2/ 3/	433.4	448.3	464.8	475.6	484.9	488.5
Asia						
Iran	29.8	24.7	32.6	34.2	36.6	37.5
Iraq	32.7	26.7	28.7	30.0	32.0	32.0
Syria	12.1	10.0	13.0	15.0	16.0	13.0
Turkey	75.5	70.9	67.2	72.9	77.9	80.0
India	53.0	46.2	50.5	52.0	58.0	56.5
Pakistan	26.0	27.0	27.8	27.2	28.0	30.0
Estimated total 2/	369.6	346.4	362.3	374.8	393.5	394.5
South America						
Argentina	419.0	415.0	430.0	420.0	420.0	430.0
Brazil	45.2	48.5	47.4	51.8	51.8	52.0
Chile	41.9	46.3	41.9	41.9	44.1	45.0
Peru	17.2	18.7	19.2	20.5	20.5	20.5
Uruguay	144.0	163.3	185.0	187.4	190.0	195.0
Estimated total 2/	685.0	707.7	739.5	737.4	743.3	759.4
Africa						
Algeria	12.0	15.6	19.6	22.8	28.0	29.0
French Morocco	28.0	30.0	33.1	35.3	30.0	30.0
Tunisia	7.9	8.0	11.0	12.0	13.0	13.0
Union of South Africa	219.0	217.5	227.5	240.0	245.0	250.0
Estimated total 2/	279.4	283.0	304.6	323.5	329.8	336.8
Oceania						
Australia	1,031.0	1,110.0	1,092.0	1,052.4	1,240.0	1,250.0
New Zealand	367.0	390.0	390.0	406.7	413.4	418.0
Estimated total 2/	1,398.1	1,500.1	1,482.1	1,459.2	1,653.5	1,668.1
Estimated world total 4/	3,770.0	3,890.0	3,970.0	4,020.0	4,290.0	4,330.0

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Includes other countries not shown in table. 3/ Excludes U. S. S. R. 4/ Rounded to tens of millions.

Compiled from reports of the Foreign Agricultural Service.

After 1942, world wool production declined steadily until a low of 3,710 million pounds was reached in 1947. The decline reflected the less profitable position of the sheep enterprise relative to alternative enterprises, the unfavorable outlook for wool prices, and drought, particularly in Australia. Production has increased each year since 1947, however, reflecting a steady rise in world sheep numbers. Early this year, world sheep numbers were estimated at 817 million head, up slightly over 1 percent from a year earlier.

Domestic Shorn Wool Production Declines

The quantity of wool shorn and to be shorn this year is estimated at 229.3 million pounds, grease basis. This is about 1 percent less than was shorn last year and about 41 percent less than the record of 388 million pounds of 1942 (table 5).

The decline in shorn wool production reflects a decrease of 2 percent in the number of sheep shorn. A slightly higher average fleece weight, however, partially offset the decline in the number of sheep shorn. The estimated average fleece weight, 8.27 pounds, is a new record and compares with the previous record of 8.25 pounds last year.

Table 5.- Number of sheep and lambs shorn, weight per fleece, and shorn wool production, United States, 1940-53

Year	Sheep and lambs shorn 1/	Weight per fleece 2/	Shorn wool production
	Thousands	Pounds	Thousand pounds
1940	46,313	8.03	372,014
1941	47,722	8.12	387,520
1942	49,287	7.88	388,297
1943	47,892	7.91	378,843
1944	43,165	7.84	338,318
1945	38,763	7.95	307,976
1946	34,647	8.11	280,908
1947	30,953	8.12	251,425
1948	28,649	8.09	231,770
1949	26,382	8.07	212,899
1950	26,387	8.16	215,422
1951	27,357	8.24	225,545
1952	28,172	8.25	232,373
1953	27,737	8.27	229,292

1/ Includes sheep shorn at commercial feeding yards.

2/ For Texas and California the weight per fleece is the amount of wool shorn per sheep and lamb during the year.

Production of shorn wool in the "native" or "fleece" wool States is estimated at 67.9 million pounds with an average fleece weight of 7.58 pounds. Last year 66.7 million pounds were shorn with an average weight per fleece of 7.47 pounds. Production in all of the "native" States, except Wisconsin, Missouri, Nebraska, Kansas, and Oklahoma, was equal to or greater than last year.

Production of shorn wool in the 13 Western States (11 Western States, South Dakota, and Texas) is estimated at 161.4 million pounds, about 3 percent less than last year. The number of sheep shorn and to be shorn is estimated at 2 percent below last year. The average weight per fleece of 8.60 pounds compares with an average of 8.61 pounds last year. Production was larger than last year in all Western States except Texas, Montana, and Oregon. Texas, the leading sheep State, had the same average weight per fleece as a year ago, but a sharp decline in the number of sheep shorn in that State decreased wool production 11 percent. The decline in Texas was sufficient to offset increases in most of the other Western States.

1952-53 Exports From Southern Hemisphere Substantially Above Previous Season

Considerably more wool is being exported from the 5 major surplus-producing countries of the Southern Hemisphere--Argentina, Australia, New Zealand, Union of South Africa, and Uruguay--during 1952-53 than in either of the two previous seasons (table 6). Exports from Argentina, Australia, and Uruguay are well above 1951-52; those from the Union of South Africa are about the same; but exports from New Zealand are lower. Compared with 1950-51, exports from all 5 countries are up.

The increase in exports reflects the improved demand and higher rate of world consumption and the larger supply available for export. Production is up substantially. Unsold stocks on July 1, 1953 probably were only one-half the total of over 300 million pounds of a year earlier.

Table 6.- Exports of wool, actual weight, from Southern Hemisphere surplus-producing countries, 1950-51, 1951-52, and 1952-53 seasons 1/

Exporting country	1950-51	1951-52	1952-53
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.
Argentina 2/	153	26	317
Australia 2/	869	762	908
New Zealand 2/	200	355	306
Union of South Africa 3/	197	214	216
Uruguay 4/	129	12	175

1/ Season beginning July 1 in British Dominions and season beginning October 1 in South America.
2/ Through April.
3/ Through June.
4/ Through May.

Compiled from reports of the Commonwealth Economic Committee.

Table 7.- Estimated world production and consumption of wool, clean basis, 1934-38 average, 1946-53

	1934-38 average	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.
Production 1/	2,058	2,110	2,125	2,100	2,153	2,202	2,283	2,301	2/2,435
Consumption	2,058	2,259	2,443	2,552	2,440	2,675	2,265	2/2,305	

1/ Production during the season beginning July 1 of the previous calendar year.

2/ Preliminary.

Compiled from reports of the Commonwealth Economic Committee.

Stocks of Wool in the United States Continue Larger than a Year Earlier

The Bureau of the Census reports that dealers and manufacturers held about 205 million pounds, scoured basis, of wool at the end of the first quarter of this year. This includes stocks held on consignment, stocks in process of manufacture up to the carding operation, stocks held in bond, and wool purchased by the Commodity Credit Corporation under the loan program. It does not include wool held by the CCC for the Department of Defense and wool held for the account of domestic growers except that held on consignment for growers.

Of the total holdings, 163 million pounds consisted of apparel class wool and 42 million pounds of carpet class wool.

Holdings of apparel class wool were reported to have been about one-fourth above a year earlier but about the same as at the end of 1952 (table 8). All of the increase over a year earlier was in domestic wool; holdings of foreign wool were down about 11 million pounds. The increase in holdings of domestic wool reflected the entry of a substantial part of 1952 domestic production into the loan program.

Total holdings of apparel wool at the end of the first quarter were equivalent to about 22.6 weeks of consumption at the average rate of the first quarter. This was the highest stock-consumption ratio since 1949 and compared with 21.7 weeks a year earlier. Holdings of manufacturers and topmakers, however, were equivalent to only 11.1 weeks, the lowest since 1945, except for 10.8 weeks in early 1950.

Dealer and manufacturer holdings of carpet class wool, all of which is imported, amounted to 42 million pounds, scoured basis, an increase of almost one-fourth from a year earlier. Relative to the rate of consumption, however, holdings were about the same as for the previous two years but lower than during 1946-50.

Table 8.- Commercial stocks of apparel wool, scoured basis, April 1, and a comparison of stocks with mill consumption, United States, 1935-39 average, 1940-52 1/

Year	Privately owned						Owned by United States Government		Total reported stocks 2/	Number of weeks mill supply represented by stocks held by 3/			
	Manufacturers		Dealers		Total								
	Domestic	Foreign	Domestic	Foreign	Domestic	Foreign	C.C.C. Domestic	D.S.C. Foreign		Manufacturers	Dealers	Total privately owned	Total
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	Number	Number	Number	Number
1935-39 average	36,118	4/19,891	40,470	4/12,696	76,588	4/32,587			4/109,175	10.7	10.1	20.8	20.8
1940	28,653	28,431	22,353	15,377	51,006	43,808			94,814	11.0	7.3	18.3	18.3
1941	29,749	50,258	14,517	20,058	44,266	70,316			114,582	9.0	3.9	12.9	12.9
1942	41,242	5/76,936	25,539	5/27,420	66,781	5/104,356		113,355	284,492	11.1	4.9	16.0	26.5
1943	40,533	64,936	19,429	21,512	59,962	86,448		168,378	314,788	8.8	3.4	12.2	26.3
1944	23,160	88,444	9,295	45,531	32,455	133,975	83,400	157,746	407,576	9.5	4.7	14.2	34.8
1945	22,833	116,525	11,545	37,421	34,378	153,946	125,600	35,553	349,477	10.9	3.8	14.7	27.2
1946	16,998	122,225	19,025	67,230	36,023	189,455	195,900		421,378	12.1	7.5	19.6	36.6
1947	32,200	111,995	18,979	47,654	51,179	159,649	193,400		404,228	12.4	5.7	18.1	34.8
1948	52,720	94,633	24,186	35,648	76,906	130,281	139,265		346,452	14.1	5.7	19.8	33.0
1949	37,945	57,712	19,760	17,160	57,705	74,872	66,744		199,321	14.6	5.7	20.3	30.5
1950	36,300	54,824	19,105	16,058	55,405	70,882	16,948		143,235	10.7	4.2	14.9	16.9
1951	28,510	83,360	7,042	11,292	35,552	94,652	6/		7/130,204	14.7	2.4	17.1	17.1
1952	20,848	54,795	34,836	20,352	55,684	75,147	6/		7/130,831	12.5	9.2	21.7	21.7
1953	30,643	49,822	8/68,127	14,477	8/98,770	64,299	8/		7/163,069	11.2	11.4	8/22.6	22.6

1/ Data are for reporting dates nearest April 1. Dates of reports range from March 26 to April 4.
2/ Includes stocks held on consignment, stocks in process of manufacture up to the carding operation, but excludes wool held by the Commodity Credit Corporation for the Department of Defense and wool held for the account of domestic growers except that held on consignment for growers.
3/ Stocks compared with January-March mill consumption.
4/ Includes a small quantity of wool afloat.
5/ Excludes 36's, 40's foreign wool.
6/ Negligible.
7/ Does not include wool held by CCC for Department of Defense.
8/ Wool purchased by Commodity Credit Corporation through the loan program is included in dealer stocks.

Compiled from reports of the Bureau of the Census and information furnished by Defense Supplies Corporation.

United States Imports of Dutiable Wool Below Last Year

Although consumption of apparel wool is well above last year, imports of dutiable wool for consumption through May, 89 million pounds, clean content, were over one-eighth below last year. Imports during the first quarter were up almost 4 percent over 1952 but a sharp drop during April and May more than offset this increase. Imports during May, 14 million pounds, clean basis, or 22 million pounds actual weight, were down about one-third from last year. The decline in recent months reflects the better movement of domestic wool into manufacturing channels this year than last.

The decline in the total from last year reflects the lower imports of wools finer than 40's. Imports of dutiable wools not finer than 40's and "named" wools for consumption were almost double a year earlier.

United States Imports of Duty-free Wool Up Substantially from Last Year

Imports of duty-free wool for consumption during each of the first 5 months of 1953 were above a year earlier. The total through May, 64 million pounds, clean basis, or 95 million pounds, actual weight, was about one-half over last year. The increase reflects the higher rate of consumption of carpet wool.

The increase for duty-free wool not over 40's was much greater than that for duty-free "named" wools. Imports of wool not finer than 40's doubled and represented about half of the total compared with about one-third last year. Imports of "named" wools were up only about one-fifth.

World Consumption Up During First Quarter

The Commonwealth Economic Committee estimates that during the first quarter of 1953, the rate of world wool consumption increased for the sixth quarter in succession. This estimate is based on data for 11 of the major consuming countries. Consumption during the first quarter is estimated to have been about 5 percent higher than during the preceding quarter, up about one-third from a year earlier, and only about 5 percent below the record reached during the first quarter of 1950.

As in the final quarter of 1952, world consumption is estimated to have been at an annual rate in excess of estimated production during the 1952-53 season.

Mill Use of Apparel Wool Above Last Year

Consumption of apparel wool by mills in the United States through May amounted to 162 million pounds, scoured basis, almost one-fifth above a year earlier, when consumption was at the low of a sharp decline which began early in 1951. The weekly average for May, 7.9 million pounds, was the highest since June 1951 (table 9). The higher rate than last year reflects the greater consumption for civilian goods. Mill use of apparel wool for

civilian goods has been on an uptrend since late in the summer of 1951 when it reached the low point of a decline that began in 1950. Use of apparel wool for military items, however, has shown opposite trends: use for such items began to increase shortly after the outbreak of hostilities in Korea, reached a peak at about the time of the low of civilian use, and then began a downward trend.

The increase over a year earlier was much greater for wools below 60's than for 60's and finer--33 percent as against 12 percent. Wools 60's and finer accounted for only 50 percent of the total compared with 55 percent last year (table 10).

About 59 percent of the apparel wool reported as consumed was on the worsted system compared with 52 percent last year and 64 percent in 1951 (table 11).

Mill Use of Carpet Wool Also Above Last Year

Mill consumption of carpet wool in the United States through May of this year was 63 million pounds, scoured basis, over one-fourth above early 1952. However, it was about one-twentieth below early 1951 and almost one-fourth below early 1950.

The rate of consumption of carpet wool began to decline in late 1950, reached a low the following summer, and then trended upward. The use of carpet wool by mills during May 1953 was at a rate of 2.4 million pounds, scoured basis, per week, down substantially from that of 2.9 million pounds in April but one-fifth above that of May 1952.

More Yarn Spun on Woolen and Worsted Systems this Year

About 306 million pounds of yarn, regardless of fiber content, were spun on the woolen and worsted systems during January-May of this year. This compares with 276 million pounds during the same months of 1952 and with 331 million pounds in 1951 (table 12).

Of the total, 71 million pounds were carpet yarn compared with 58 million pounds in 1952 and 78 million pounds in 1951. Raw wool accounted for 74.8 percent of the total quantity of fiber reported as consumed in the spinning of such yarn compared with 70.9 percent last year and 54.6 percent in 1951 (table 14).

Output of yarn other than carpet amounted to 235 million pounds, about 8 percent more than last year but 7 percent less than in 1951 and about 1 percent more than in 1950. Output of woolen yarn was up only 2.8 percent, while output of worsted yarn was up over 16 percent. Compared with 1951, however, worsted yarn was down about 13 percent and woolen only 4 percent.

Output of Woolen and Worsted Fabric about Same as Last Year

Production of woolen and worsted fabric (fabric principally wool, reprocessed wool, or reused wool) during the first quarter of this year amounted to 85.5 million finished linear yards (table 15). This compared with 86.2 million yards during the first quarter of last year and 99.8 million yards in 1951.

Table 9.- Weekly rate of consumption of apparel and carpet wool on woolen and worsted systems, scoured basis, United States, by months, 1950-53

Classification	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
1950												
Apparel	8,006	8,837	8,518	7,943	8,268	8,084	7,370	9,901	9,015	9,671	7,871	7,393
Carpet	3,974	3,977	3,989	4,208	4,097	3,725	2,448	3,989	3,710	4,223	3,712	3,638
Total	11,980	12,814	12,507	12,151	12,365	11,809	9,818	13,890	12,725	13,894	11,583	11,031
1951												
Apparel	8,192	7,496	7,020	8,754	8,609	8,541	6,282	7,320	6,912	6,360	6,368	6,300
Carpet	3,416	3,410	3,268	2,507	1,807	1,622	413	1,040	1,069	1,556	1,663	1,761
Total	11,608	10,906	10,288	11,261	10,416	10,163	6,695	8,360	7,981	7,916	8,031	8,061
1952												
Apparel	5,904	6,218	5,971	5,876	6,277	6,779	6,335	7,621	7,784	7,656	7,120	6,725
Carpet	2,261	2,513	2,385	2,265	2,033	1,403	1,289	2,305	2,730	2,648	2,824	3,029
Total	8,165	8,731	8,356	8,141	8,310	8,182	7,624	9,926	10,514	10,304	9,944	9,754
1953												
Apparel	6,872	7,391	7,500	7,298	7,885							
Carpet	2,738	3,164	3,203	2,864	2,434							
Total	9,610	10,555	10,703	10,162	10,319							

Compiled from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 10.- Percentage distribution of apparel wool consumption by grades, January-May, 1946-53

Grade	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
60's and finer	54.2	60.1	63.8	54.6	56.9	56.1	54.5	50.2
50's and up to 60's	31.4	26.9	25.4	34.6	33.5	33.6	33.4	36.4
48's and coarser	14.4	13.0	10.8	10.8	9.6	10.3	12.1	13.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 11.- Percentage distribution of apparel wool consumption on woolen and worsted systems, United States, January-May, 1946-53

System	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Worsted	57.8	63.0	66.1	60.6	67.6	63.5	52.3	58.9
Woolen	42.2	37.0	33.9	39.4	32.4	36.5	47.7	41.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 12.- Yarns spun on the woolen and worsted systems in the United States, January-May 1950-53

Yarn	January-May 1950	1951	1952	1953	Percentage change 1953 from 1952
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	Percent
Carpet	83,451	77,738	58,300	71,386	+ 22.4
Other than carpet	232,098	253,750	218,039	234,961	+ 7.8
Worsted	92,299	105,489	78,572	91,562	+ 16.5
Woolen	139,799	148,261	139,467	143,399	+ 2.8

Compiled from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 13.- Weekly rate of spinning of yarn on woolen and worsted systems, United States, by months, 1950-53

Classification	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
Carpet												
1950	3,840	3,945	4,034	4,289	4,122	3,878	2,579	4,162	3,830	4,408	4,029	4,020
1951	3,897	4,001	3,897	3,520	2,817	2,678	931	1,743	1,588	2,001	2,172	2,128
1952	2,492	2,885	2,860	2,580	2,612	1,605	1,357	2,509	3,076	3,106	3,269	3,431
1953	3,022	3,515	3,498	3,338	2,883							
Other than carpet												
1950	10,540	11,298	11,219	10,971	11,813	11,750	10,339	13,451	12,660	13,187	11,393	11,226
1951	11,729	11,128	10,556	11,807	12,003	12,227	9,157	11,260	10,384	10,190	10,531	9,965
1952	9,807	10,758	10,054	9,546	10,300	11,146	9,805	11,688	11,797	11,727	11,179	10,397
1953	9,890	10,772	10,987	10,509	11,509							

Compiled from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 14.- Percentage distribution of fibers consumed for spinning of carpet and rug yarns on the woolen and worsted systems, United States, by months, 1950-53

Fiber	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Year
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
Total													
1950	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1951	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1952	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1953	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0								
Shorn and pulled wool of the sheep													
1950	80.3	80.3	81.2	8.16	81.6	79.1	75.5	78.4	78.5	76.8	74.7	74.2	79.2
1951	73.9	71.4	72.5	63.0	54.6	52.0	38.7	56.2	57.4	65.5	64.5	69.8	64.5
1952	71.1	73.8	72.0	72.4	70.9	74.5	75.1	78.5	75.2	74.2	75.5	73.9	73.8
1953	74.1	73.9	75.1	77.0	74.8								
Other wool 1/													
1950	3.4	3.8	3.4	3.0	3.1	3.8	3.1	4.6	3.2	3.3	3.1	2.7	3.4
1951	2.5	2.8	3.3	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.7	2.8	2.1	2.4	2.0	3.7	3.0
1952	2.7	2.1	3.2	3.8	4.3	2.4	2.4	2.3	4.0	4.3	4.6	4.2	3.5
1953	4.1	5.3	4.9	5.0	4.3								
Reused and reprocessed wool 1/													
1950	10.8	9.2	9.7	9.4	9.2	10.1	11.5	8.7	9.8	9.7	10.2	8.7	9.7
1951	9.2	9.6	8.9	9.1	9.2	8.5	13.1	5.0	8.5	6.8	7.3	5.8	8.5
1952	6.8	5.9	4.7	4.8	5.9	8.4	10.4	6.2	5.9	5.6	4.4	4.6	5.9
1953	5.0	4.0	3.2	2.8	3.8								
Rayon (staple and other)													
1950	2.4	4.0	3.0	3.4	3.8	4.5	5.5	5.7	5.8	7.2	9.4	12.3	5.6
1951	11.7	13.8	13.4	22.0	29.4	31.9	37.1	31.4	27.7	21.5	22.3	17.5	20.8
1952	17.4	15.8	18.6	17.6	17.2	12.2	9.6	11.5	13.2	14.2	14.0	16.1	15.1
1953	15.6	15.8	15.7	14.1	15.8								
Other fiber													
1950	3.1	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.3	2.5	4.4	2.6	2.7	3.0	2.6	2.1	2.1
1951	2.7	2.4	1.9	2.4	3.2	4.0	7.4	4.6	4.3	3.8	3.9	3.2	3.2
1952	2.0	2.4	1.5	1.4	1.7	2.5	2.5	1.5	1.7	1.7	1.5	1.2	1.7
1953	1.2	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.3								

1/ As defined in the Wool Products Labeling Act of 1939. Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 15.- Woolen and worsted fabric production in the United States, January-March, 1951-53 1/

Fabric	January-March 1951	January-March 1952	January-March 1953	Percentage change 1953 from 1951	Percentage change 1953 from 1952
	1,000 linear yards	1,000 linear yards	1,000 linear yards	Percent	Percent
Woven fabric (except felt)	99,797	86,192	85,487	- 14.3	- 0.8
Apparel	85,763	74,721	72,533	- 15.4	- 2.9
Woolen	43,419	43,541	45,492	+ 4.8	+ 4.5
Worsted	42.344	31,180	27,041	- 36.1	- 13.3
Government orders	10,521	23,093	8,153	- 22.5	- 64.7
Woolen	2,757	9,978	4,546	+ 64.9	- 54.4
Worsted	7,764	13,115	3,607	- 53.6	- 72.5
Other than Government orders	75,242	51,628	64,380	- 14.4	+ 24.7
Woolen	40,662	33,563	40,946	+ 0.7	+ 22.0
Worsted	34,580	18,065	23,434	- 32.2	+ 29.7
Men's and boys'	39,451	24,121	32,960	- 16.5	+ 36.6
Woolen	13,323	10,851	14,143	+ 6.2	+ 30.3
Worsted	26,128	13,270	18,817	- 28.0	+ 41.8
Women's and children's	35,791	27,507	31,420	- 12.2	+ 14.2
Woolen	27,339	22,712	26,803	- 2.0	+ 18.0
Worsted	8,452	4,795	4,617	- 45.4	- 3.7
Non-apparel	14,034	11,471	12,954	- 7.7	+ 12.9
Blanketing	5,116	6,962	7,129	+ 39.3	+ 2.4
Government orders	601	2,654	2,856	+375.2	+ 7.6
Other than Government orders	4,515	4,308	4,273	- 5.4	- .8
Other non-apparel	8,918	4,509	5,825	- 34.7	+ 29.2
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds		
Woven felt	3,292	2,007	2,233	- 32.2	+ 11.3

1/ Principally wool, reprocessed wool, or reused wool by weight. Blanketing in 72 inch width or equivalent. Other fabrics in 54 to 60 inch widths or equivalent 54 inch width.

Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 16.- Percent of woolen and worsted apparel fabric and blanketing produced toward Government orders, 1950-53

Type of fabric	1950	1951				1952				1953
		1st quarter	2nd quarter	3rd quarter	4th quarter	1st quarter	2nd quarter	3rd quarter	4th quarter	1st quarter
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Apparel	2.6	12.3	31.2	50.6	41.1	30.9	23.4	17.8	11.9	11.2
Blanketing	1/	11.7	56.0	69.8	54.2	38.1	26.8	32.2	41.0	40.1

1/ Not available.

Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 17.- Percentage distribution of woven woolen and worsted apparel fabric production, United States, January-March, 1950-53

Fabric	January-March			
	1950	1951	1952	1953
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Apparel	100	100	100	100
Woolen	52	51	58	63
Worsted	48	49	42	37
Government orders	100	100	100	100
Woolen	29	26	43	56
Worsted	71	74	57	44
Other than Government	100	100	100	100
Woolen	49	54	65	64
Worsted	51	46	35	36
Men's and boys'	100	100	100	100
Woolen	35	34	45	43
Worsted	65	66	55	57
Women's and children's	100	100	100	100
Woolen	65	76	83	85
Worsted	35	24	17	15

1/ Preliminary.

Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Of the total produced this year, 72.5 million yards were apparel fabric and 13.0 million were nonapparel fabric. Government orders accounted for 8.2 million yards or 11.2 percent of the total (table 16). The percentages for 1950, 1951, and 1952 were 2.9, 12.3, and 30.9. The yardage, as well as the percentage, has declined sharply since the third quarter of 1951, when Government orders accounted for 50.6 percent of the total.

Output of civilian apparel fabric was up about one-fourth over early 1952 but about 14 percent below the first quarter of 1951 (table 15.) The gain over last year reflected increases of 37 percent of men's and boys' wear fabric and of 14 percent of women's and children's wear fabric. Compared with 1951 output, however, production of men's and boys' wear fabrics was down about 17 percent and of women's and children's about 12 percent. Output of civilian worsted fabric was up almost 30 percent over 1952 but was still 32 percent below 1951 (table 17). Output of woolen fabric was up 22 percent over last year and 1 percent over 1951.

Of the 13 million yards of nonapparel fabric produced, blanketing accounted for 7.1 million yards, of which 40 percent was toward Government orders.

Woolen and worsted weavers produced 2.2 million pounds of woven felt in addition to the above yardage of fabric. This was slightly more than one-tenth above 1952 but almost one-third below 1951.

Cuttings of Women's Outerwear

Cuttings of women's fur-trimmed coats, untrimmed coats, suits, and unit-priced dresses during the first quarter of this year were below both 1952 and 1951 (table 18). The declines from 1952 ranged from about 3 percent for untrimmed coats to 19 percent for fur-trimmed coats. Shirt cuttings, however, were up relative to both 1951 and 1952.

Cuttings from rayon and acetate fabric were below 1952 for all categories. The declines ranged from 2 percent for skirts to 27 percent for untrimmed coats.

The proportion of total cuttings cut from wool fabrics increased for all categories except skirts (table 20).

Cuttings for Men's Tailored Clothing Above Last Year

Cuttings of all categories of men's tailored clothing during January-May of this year were substantially above last year (table 21). The increases ranged from over one-fifth for overcoats and topcoats to almost one-third for summer-weight suits.

Relative to early 1951, however, the trends were mixed: while early 1953 cuttings of separate dress and sport trousers were above early 1951, cuttings of overcoats and topcoats and regular-weight suits were below early 1951.

The proportion of total cuttings cut from wool fabric continued to decline for regular-weight suits and separate dress and sport trousers during early 1953 but increased slightly for summer-weight suits, (table 22).

Table 18.- Cuttings of specified women's outerwear garments by fiber content and type of garment, United States, January-March 1951-53

Type of garment	1951	1952	1953	Percentage change 1953 from 1951	Percentage change 1953 from 1952
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Percent	Percent
Fur-trimmed coats	99	72	58	- 41.4	- 19.4
Untrimmed coats	7,285	7,453	7,255	- 0.4	- 2.7
Wool	5,316	6.178	6,276	+ 18.1	+ 1.6
Rayon and acetate	1,909	1,218	890	- 53.4	- 26.9
Other	60	57	89	+ 48.3	+ 56.1
Suits	6,701	5,838	5,401	- 19.4	- 7.5
Wool	2,706	2,011	1,957	- 27.7	- 2.7
Rayon and acetate	3,806	3,657	3,218	- 15.4	- 12.0
Other	189	170	226	+ 19.6	+ 32.9
Skirts	14,868	14,700	16,008	+ 7.7	+ 8.9
Wool	1,980	2,136	1,860	- 6.1	- 12.9
Rayon and acetate	7,056	7,116	6,960	- 1.4	- 2.2
Other	5,832	5,448	7,188	+ 23.3	+ 31.9
Unit-priced dresses	38,655	37,452	34,948	- 9.6	- 6.7
Wool	466	262	419	- 10.1	+ 59.9
Rayon and acetate	25,920	24,652	21,404	- 17.4	- 13.2
Other	12,269	12,538	13,125	+ 7.0	+ 4.7

Compiled from reports of the Bureau of the Census

Table 19.- Percentage change in cuttings of specified women's outerwear garments, by fiber content and type of garment, United States, 1952 from 1951

Type of garment	Jan-Mar	Apr-June	July-Sept.	Oct-Dec	Jan-Dec.
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Fur-trimmed coats	- 27.3	- 9.9	- 6.8	- 13.2	- 9.9
Untrimmed coats	+ 2.3	- 0.4	+ 12.0	+ 9.0	+ 6.1
Wool	+ 16.2	+ 14.3	+ 22.3	+ 19.5	+ 18.5
Rayon and acetate	- 36.2	- 37.8	- 34.7	- 38.9	- 36.8
Other	- 5.0	+145.7	- 5.9	- 46.2	+ 4.8
Suits	- 12.9	- 5.7	- 12.5	- 7.2	- 10.3
Wool	- 25.7	- 17.6	- 14.8	- 13.5	- 19.2
Rayon and acetate	- 3.9	- 5.2	- 11.4	- 5.8	- 6.2
Other	- 10.1	+ 79.1	+ 2.9	+110.6	+ 28.0
Skirts	- 1.1	+ 18.4	+ 19.8	+ 22.2	+ 14.3
Wool	+ 7.9	- 1.3	+ 32.5	+ 18.1	+ 19.3
Rayon and acetate	+ 0.8	- 5.8	+ 22.0	+ 24.0	+ 11.4
Other	- 6.6	+ 42.7	- 1.3	+ 24.4	+ 15.0
Unit-priced dresses	- 3.1	+ 5.2	+ 0.5	0	+ 0.8
Wool	- 43.8	- 44.4	+ 8.9	+ 18.8	+ 0.4
Rayon and acetate	- 4.9	- 0.5	- 3.3	- 5.0	- 3.4
Other	+ 2.2	+ 16.4	+ 17.7	+ 15.5	+ 11.7

Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census

Table 20.- Percentage distribution of cuttings of specified women's outerwear garments, by fiber content and type of garment, United States, 1951-53

Type of garment	Jan.-Mar.			Apr.-June		July-Sept.		Oct.-Dec.		Jan.-Dec.	
	1951	1952	1953	1951	1952	1951	1952	1951	1952	1951	1952
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Untrimmed coats	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Wool	73.0	82.9	86.5	67.0	76.9	80.9	88.3	82.3	90.2	76.5	85.4
Rayon and acetate	26.2	16.3	12.3	31.7	19.8	17.0	9.9	16.1	9.0	22.1	13.2
Other	0.8	0.8	1.2	1.3	3.3	2.1	1.8	1.6	0.8	1.4	1.4
Suits	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Wool	40.4	34.4	36.2	28.2	24.7	42.5	41.4	36.1	33.7	37.8	34.0
Rayon and acetate	56.8	62.7	59.6	68.3	68.6	55.1	55.7	62.7	63.6	59.7	62.4
Other	2.8	2.9	4.2	3.5	6.7	2.4	2.9	1.2	2.7	2.5	3.6
Skirts	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Wool	13.3	14.5	11.6	15.3	12.7	30.8	34.1	31.4	30.4	22.8	23.7
Rayon and acetate	47.5	48.4	43.5	36.2	28.8	46.0	46.8	47.8	48.4	44.5	43.5
Other	39.2	37.1	44.9	48.5	58.5	23.2	19.1	20.8	21.2	32.7	32.8
Unit-priced dresses	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Wool	1.2	0.7	1.2	1.4	0.8	8.7	9.5	4.8	5.7	3.6	3.6
Rayon and acetate	67.1	65.8	61.2	61.1	57.8	78.4	75.3	76.6	72.8	69.7	66.8
Other	31.7	33.5	37.6	37.5	41.4	12.9	15.2	18.6	21.5	26.7	29.6

Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 21.- Cuttings of specified items of men's tailored clothing, United States January-May, 1951-53

Type of garment	Number of garments cut			Percentage change 1953 from	
	1951 (22 weeks)	1952 (22 weeks)	1953 (22 weeks)	1951	1952
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Percent	Percent
Suits, total	10,377.1	8,065.1	10,201.5	- 1.7	+ 26.5
Regular-weight	7,503.2	5,712.6	7,083.3	- 5.6	+ 24.0
50 percent or more wool	7,072.9	5,218.0	6,367.7	-10.0	+ 22.0
Other	430.3	494.6	715.6	+66.3	+ 44.7
Summer-weight	2,873.9	2,352.5	3,118.2	+ 8.5	+ 32.5
50 percent or more wool	1,074.1	671.2	924.1	-14.0	+ 37.7
Rayon and other synthetics	1,799.8	1,681.3	2,194.1	+21.9	+ 30.5
Separate dress and sport trousers	18,956.6	19,548.1	25,269.4	+33.3	+ 29.3
50 percent or more wool	5,573.8	5,530.0	6,831.8	+22.6	+ 23.5
Chiefly rayon and other synthetics	12,520.1	13,078.5	16,130.9	+28.8	+ 23.3
Chiefly cotton	862.7	939.6	2,306.7	+167.4	+145.5
Overcoats and topcoats	2,477.0	1,773.0	2,166.1	-12.6	+ 22.2

Compiled from reports of the Bureau of the Census

Table 22.- Percentage distribution of cuttings of men's tailored clothing by fiber content and type of garment, United States, January-May, 1951-53

Type of garment	January - May		
	1951	1952	1953
	Percent	Percent	Percent
Suits			
Regular-weight	100.0	100.0	100.0
50 percent or more wool	94.3	91.3	89.9
Other	5.7	8.7	10.1
Summer - weight	100.0	100.0	100.0
50 percent or more wool	37.4	28.5	29.6
Rayon and other synthetics	62.6	71.5	70.4
Separate dress and sport trousers	100.0	100.0	100.0
50 percent or more wool	29.4	28.3	27.0
Chiefly rayon and other synthetics	66.0	66.9	63.9
Chiefly cotton	4.6	4.8	9.1

Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census

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